

sheriffs. There are 16 counties on the Texas-Mexico border. All 16 of those sheriffs plus four other sheriffs are in what is called the Texas Border Sheriffs Coalition. And I talked to those individuals, specifically Sheriff Cuellar, who is the brother of our own Henry Cuellar from Laredo. He's the sheriff of Webb County. Sheriff Sigi Gonzalez from Zapata County, Sheriff Arvin West from Hudspeth County, and Sheriff Oscar Carrillo from Culberson County. And all of those individuals said basically the same thing, that they're concerned about what they call the "cross-border travelers" that come into the United States and commit crimes in the United States.

We hear a lot, Mr. Speaker, from all different sources about the crimes in Mexico coming into the United States. We have some that say they do occur. We have others that say, no, it's not really a problem over here. It's difficult to find out exactly what the truth is. So I asked the sheriffs of these counties who are responsible for the safety of their own community. These sheriffs patrol massive amounts of land, and I contacted them and asked them this question: How many people in your county jail are foreign nationals that are in jail charged with a crime in the United States, such as a misdemeanor or a felony, not foreign nationals who are in jail just on immigration violations? And it didn't make any difference what country they were from, but that was the question that I posed to these border sheriffs. And I will give you some of the statistics, Mr. Speaker, tonight.

In El Paso County, one of the largest counties on the Texas-Mexico border, the sheriff's department there said about 18 percent of the people in the county jail are foreign nationals. Hudspeth County right next door, which is a massive county that has really not enough sheriff's deputies, the sheriff told me personally that about 90 percent of the people in his county jail are foreign nationals charged with crimes in the United States. A massive amount of individuals.

Next door in Culberson County, it was about 22 percent. The four counties in the middle, Jeff Davis, Presidio, Brewster, and Terrell County, the statistics were not, shall I say, as accurate as the sheriffs wanted to give me; so I'm not going to give that information because I'm not sure about the exact percentage.

But if we move on down the Rio Grande River, and, of course, this is Mexico to the south and this is the rest of Texas up here, just going down the river, we have Val Verde County and about 39 percent of the people are foreign nationals. In Kinney County 71 percent of the people in the county jail are foreign nationals; Maverick County, 65 percent; Dimmit County, 45 percent; Webb County, that's where Laredo is, about 45 percent are from foreign countries; Zapata County, about 65 percent.

And moving on down the Rio Grande River to the Gulf of Mexico here, Starr County, 53 percent; Hidalgo County, 23 percent; and then Cameron County, where Brownsville matches or comes across from the river from Matamoros, about 28 percent.

So, Mr. Speaker, you can make statistics prove whatever you want them to prove, but it shows that people from foreign countries cross the Rio Grande River and come into the United States and commit crimes. These people need to be held accountable for that, and the way to do that is to secure our borders by using the National Guard, the Border Patrol, the sheriffs, the sheriff's deputies, and all the Federal agencies because the first duty of government is to protect our Nation.

And that's just the way it is.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. WOOLSEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCHENRY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. MCHENRY addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

GIVE AMERICA BACK TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, tonight as General Motors, Chrysler, and the United Auto Workers struggle with the imposed government deadlines that will determine their survival, I wish to share with you Harold Meyerson's article "Break Up the Banks" from The Washington Post last Friday.

You see, what has been holding up the deal to save the American auto industry, save America's jobs, and breathe life into communities where wealth is actually created and not just traded away is something not much talked about, and that is the megabanks, centered, yes, on Wall Street, again.

Citigroup and J.P. Morgan Chase that were huge Treasury bailout recipients, billions and billions and billions of dollars, who turned a profit this year, by the way, are the leading culprits for the rest of the banks in slowing down or impeding the Obama administration's efforts to restructure Chrysler. Currently, Chrysler's bonds found on the books of Citigroup and J.P. Morgan Chase are trading at 15 cents on the dollar. Despite increasingly better offers than that, Citigroup and J.P. Morgan Chase insist that they and their fellow banks are entitled to

more, more of your money. More of our money. That is greed in its purest form. More, more, and more for them and their cronies, and less and less and less for everyone else. They have bilked America on the front end and then on the back end.

First, the front end by restricting the availability of credit to consumers looking to purchase cars and car dealers looking to finance their showrooms. Just squeeze them down out of existence by shutting off their credit. And now at the back end by denying the restructuring of GM and Chrysler's debt. Yes, they keep America's cash but then deny us the ability to access it in the marketplace to buy cars and furnishing dealers' showroom floors. Very clever. It's a tourniquet at both ends.

Wall Street's idea is to bleed Chrysler retirees, Fiat, and the American taxpayers dry. They care for their own interest at the expense of the national interest.

The American automobile industry is just one victim of Wall Street's meltdown. The industry is the lifeblood of so many communities, and they were just on the cusp of a new green engine era, and they have been forced to their knees.

Of course, the banksters bail out their friends, firms like AIG. Beyond mere life support, they were handed over \$70 billion. That's putting all the auto bailout together and multiplying it times five. Not only does AIG have special access to policymakers and your tax dollars; they didn't have to take any haircuts.

Compare that to what is being asked of autoworkers: first, give up your job, move out of your community, cut your wages and your health benefits too, and, oh, by the way, we want to go after your retirement benefits, even the widows and retirees out of those firms.

Meanwhile, AIG pensioners, well, they're alive and well. Their health care benefits are not threatened. Their counterparty are kept whole. While hardworking blue collar America is squeezed dry, they're just as happy as clams.

Right now it's Wall Street versus the American people. Surely those that work hard and make things with their hands and end up with all the injuries to prove it, with bodily wear and tear, don't they deserve some regard? Don't they have some rights for three decades in an auto plant? Well, Citigroup, Bank of America, J.P. Morgan Chase, HSBC, Wells Fargo, and the rest of the high fliers up there on Wall Street, they want to deny these folks the right to their hard-earned benefits and wages.

American workers built and continue to build America, while Wall Street destroys not just capital; they destroy industries. They destroy communities. They destroy people's lives. Now, we can see who has that power. But that isn't what America was supposed to be

all about. When you work hard and you build something real for the Nation's might, you expect a fair deal. And that was supposed to be the American Dream, for the many, not just the privileged few. Today a real industry, auto production, gets stomped on, chewed up, spit out because Wall Street robbed the kitty. They stole our hard-earned money and continue to beg, borrow, and steal from American citizens. Sales in business after business, including the auto industry, have gone down because the bailout recipients didn't make loans. Credit is frozen. People can't buy cars. The Big Three is suffering. So what does Wall Street do? It gets its friends, its shills, on the op-ed pages and other media to shift the blame.

So who gets the blame for the strangled auto industry? Is it Detroit that's the problem? No, my friends. It's Wall Street that's the problem. And it's time that we put America back on its feet again. And as Mr. Meyerson suggests in his very last sentence, pass the anti-trust laws we need in order to scale down these banks and give America back to the American people.

[From the Washington Post, Apr. 24, 2009]

BREAK UP THE BANKS
(By Harold Meyerson)
THIS WEEK IN BANKING

Our leading financial institutions announced that they had actually made a profit in the year's first quarter through the creative manipulation of rules and regulations, lobbied Congress to preserve their ability to raise credit card interest rates just for the heck of it and opposed the administration's plan for restructuring Chrysler, which would save some jobs and honor pension obligations, in the hope that they can redeem the company's bonds at a higher level than they're trading at just now. And, to round out the picture, the Wall Street Journal reported this week that lending at the 19 largest TARP recipients was 23 percent lower in February—by which time these banks had received hundreds of billions of dollars in public funds intended to enable them to lend more—than it had been in October, before the floodgates of tax dollars had been fully opened.

This is what our major banks are up to at a time when it is our largess that is keeping them afloat.

The week began with a burst of creative accounting. Citigroup, into which we've sunk more dough than any other company, with the possible exception of AIG, claimed a profit for the first quarter of this year because its bonded debt has lost value, which under the rules of accountancy enabled it to register a one-time gain equal to that lost value, because Citi could, in theory, buy back its own bonds for less. J.P. Morgan Chase, whose fire-sale purchase of Bear Stearns we taxpayers backed, declared a similar profit because of a similar decline in the value of its bonds.

As events would have it, the very same Citigroup and J.P. Morgan Chase are the lead negotiators for the banks that are objecting to the Obama administration's efforts to restructure Chrysler. Chrysler's bonds, which these banks hold, are trading at 15 cents on the dollar, the amount the government offered to pay the banks in its initial proposal to restore the company to viability. Yesterday, the government upped that amount to 22 cents, plus a 5 percent eq-

uity share in the company. Citigroup and J.P. Morgan Chase, however, insist that they and their fellow banks are entitled to more, though that "more" could only come at the expense of Fiat (the auto company that is providing the new car lines and technology without which Chrysler will fold) or the company's retirees (to whose health-care fund Chrysler is legally obligated) who built the company, or the taxpayers who are keeping Chrysler alive.

Instead of playing Scrooge (and a publicly subsidized Scrooge, at that), what the banks should do is lend Chrysler their accountants. Maybe they'd show that the company turned a profit last year.

The banks' lobbyists, meanwhile, have been hard at work, too. Bills to limit credit card fees and penalties—my favorite fee is the one banks charge some customers for making (not missing, making) a payment—are moving through both houses of Congress, but the Senate version has yet to receive any support from Republicans. A bill that would enable bankruptcy judges to modify mortgage terms has also hit a wall in the Senate, with Republican leaders claiming the backing of all 41 of their members to filibuster the bill when it comes to the floor.

President Obama told representatives of the major banks yesterday that he backs the limits on credit card charges. The question here is whether the administration and congressional Democrats will use this issue to go after the Republicans, whose decision to align themselves with the banks, particularly on the issue of credit card fees, is incomprehensibly dumb even by their standards. Socially liberal bankers may be a financial mainstay of the new-model Democratic Party, but if the Democratic Senate and House campaign committees don't run against the Republicans for backing the moral sewer and economic disaster that is our modern banking industry, they will be derelict in their political duties.

And that should just be the beginning. The Democrat in the White House and the Democrats on the Hill are committed to legislation that regulates our dysfunctional wards in the banking industry, but regulations by themselves won't solve the problem of the banks being too big to fail—and so big that they dominate campaign finance and, with it, much of the business of lawmaking. We need to amend our antitrust laws so we can scale down banks to the point that they no longer imperil our economic and political systems. As things stand now, it's we who are serving their needs, not they who are serving ours. It's time to turn that around.

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PTSD/TBI GUARANTEED REVIEW FOR HEROES ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, our Nation has asked many of its military personnel to serve in Iraq and Afghanistan and other parts of the world.

Unfortunately, many of these servicemembers are returning with symptoms of posttraumatic stress disorder, known as PTSD, and traumatic brain injuries, known as TBI.

A 2008 study by the RAND Corporation found that nearly 20 percent of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans have symptoms of PTSD or major depression. This study also found that many

servicemembers say they do not seek treatment for psychological illnesses because they feel it will harm their careers. When some servicemembers suffering from PTSD or TBI are not properly treated, they wind up self-medicating or experiencing changes in behavior that lead to serious legal issues and the threat of separation from their service without benefits or treatment.

One disturbing example involves a lance corporal who is stationed in my district at Camp Lejeune. The marine had been facing involuntary administrative separation due to misconduct. His fitness reports prove that he was an outstanding marine prior to his deployment to Iraq and Afghanistan.

His medical board reports, and it states, and I quote, "His service in the Marine Corps caused his PTSD and, indirectly, his incidents/legal problems. The Marine Corps' failure to treat him in the past and treat him appropriately has done nothing but worsen the problem."

If this marine would be administratively separated from service, he will not have a chance to be eligible for TRICARE benefits. He would have difficulty obtaining a job, and it is unlikely that a university would accept him as a student.

Fortunately, the Marine Corps has decided to give this marine another chance, and he will be transferred to a naval hospital for PTSD treatment. However, this is not an isolated problem. Many servicemembers have already lost their benefits due to an administrative separation from their service.

For this reason, I have introduced H.R. 1701, the PTSD/TBI Guaranteed Review for Heroes Act. H.R. 1701 attacks the issue from two angles.

First, the bill creates a special review board at the Department of Defense for servicemembers who were less than honorably discharged. And, second, the bill would mandate a physical evaluation board prior to an administrative separation proceeding if the servicemember has been diagnosed with PTSD or TBI by medical authority. Ultimately, the legislation would help preserve the benefits of the servicemember upon leaving the service.

At a news conference last week, I was grateful to be joined by representatives from the National Association for Uniformed Services, the National Military Family Association and the Military Officers Association of America, who spoke in support of this legislation.

The Air Force Sergeants Association, Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Military Order of the Purple Heart and Marine Corps League have endorsed this bill. If our government and the military fail to address problems associated with PTSD, the situation will only grow worse in future years.

In 2007, President Obama and Vice President BIDEN joined Senator Kit Bond and others in writing President Bush about the need to ensure that any discharge a servicemember receives "is